



**August 2011**

**Volume 7, Issue 08**

**Copyright RCT**

## From The Editor...

### IN THIS ISSUE

**PAGE 2: Minutes**  
**PAGE 5: New Stuff!**  
**PAGE 6: FD**  
**PAGE 7: Slammin Salmon!**

Well hello again fellow club members...

Here we are in the "Dog Days" of August and summer has yet to appear, at least that's the way it is here in beautiful downtown Lakewood.

I hope that summer finds you all well and have a great summer... such as it is.



By the time this is published, The RCT hamfest will be less than a week away. It is one of the other big summer events that the club does, and it is ably headed by our club secretary Larry Watson KD4VOM. Please try to attend even if you don't want to buy anything in particular. I hardly ever buy anything at any swapfest but I still enjoy going to the club events and meeting everyone.

That's the norm for club events; getting together and just talking to the other members.

Also coming up soon is the Salmon run, AKA known as the Washington State QSO party. This event has been used as a fund-raiser at the RCT for some time now, and the funds raised by member donations has enabled us to plow that money right back into the club, resulting in a much better experience at the clubhouse.

All club members are asked to participate, either actively at the contest I the clubhouse or simply by putting your contribution to the fund raising activity. You can also just participate by cheer-leading from the sidelines as the contest core operators go for the QSO's trying valiantly to work each and every one of the thirty-nine Washington counties.

Wish us luck!

73 Gary WG7X

---

The 6 July 2011 Radio Club of Tacoma Board meeting was held at the Radio Club of Tacoma. Vice President Al Churchill AC7BU called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

Vice President: Al Churchill AC7BU  
Secretary Larry Watson KD4VOM  
Board Member Frank Palmer AC7JY  
Board Member Si Nelsen KA7AQT

*A sign in sheet with the names of members and guests is attached. There were 7 names on the attendance roster.*

**HEALTH AND WELFARE:** None reported.

**SECRETARY'S REPORT:** Larry Watson KD4VOM

**Correspondence:** Larry reported several K7K QSL cards, some Hamfest registrations and returned mail; the Quest phone bill and the Pierce County Assessors real property valuation notice.

We have also received current copies of the QEX and Contest Journal for the W7DK Library.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** Bob AD7LJ out of town\_Bob will prepare an updated financial report for the August Board meeting.

#### **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**Membership:** From membership database manager Karl Johnson K7KHJ, reported the membership is estimated at around 307 an increase of 10. *A copy of Karl's membership summary report is attached to the original copy of these minutes.*

**Property Management:** - Frank AC7JY Is looking for the Generator manuals to assist in finding a buyer for them. He has a current offer of \$ 500.00 for the two generators and spare parts. He continues to seek bidders. Frank is working with Glen Galati KD7VYK.

**Hamfest:** Larry KD4VOM reports that Hamfest planning continues on track. The Hamfest Invitation and registration letters have been sent, and the Hamfest requests the normal temporary cash advance of \$ 600.00 to cover the Hamfest cash box preparation.

**Field Day:** - Al Ferguson N7OMS Provided a preliminary Field Day report. Field Day was

successful operating as Class 5A, with a UHF/VHF/6 Meter, and GOTA Stations. Public media releases were sent to area newspapers. All Field Day expenses have not been submitted, but did exceed the \$ 250 approved for food at the June Board meeting. The kitchen food costs were \$ 382 with \$82 dollars cash donated there and Jan donated \$ 100.00. The porta-potty bill is not yet known, Jay KD7DKY made the arrangements. It's not known what the Field Day Pig has collected over the year. Larry offered to put together a slide show so Al can present the Program at the July 13<sup>th</sup> meeting.

**Library Committee:** No Report.

**Museum:** No Report

**Training:** No Technician classes until October.

#### **W7DK At the Fair Steve Morton AD7AB**

The W7DK.org website is now set up for W7DK at the Fair duty volunteers in September.

[http://www.w7dk.org/WWF/2011\\_WWF\\_Signup.htm](http://www.w7dk.org/WWF/2011_WWF_Signup.htm)

#### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

**Bylaws Revision:** Pending; Larry KD4VOM asked for a postponement of this work until after Hamfest. His hands are full and he has several items to contribute and coordinate.

**Fund Raising Project/ 95<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Planning:** Al Ferguson N7OMS – Al provided an update plans to celebrate our 94<sup>th</sup> anniversary at Joessepi's restaurant. We still have no real plan and Al is looking for someone to head up the effort to raise money and manage the event. There was considerable discussion about using an auction, getting donations, etc.

**HF Radio Room Operations:** No Report.

**Silent Key Board:** Larry KD4VOM – action pending to draft a Silent Key Board procedure.

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

**Salmon Run:** Al N7OMS reviewed the September upcoming Salmon Run and our fund raising plans. He proposed we offer up a Mug for this year's Salmon Run if any contestant completes a clean sweep, entering by selling

tickets. Work with WW DX Club on this year. Detailed proposal expected at a future meeting.

**Lawn Care Weed Eater:** Frank AC7JY presented a proposal by Bob K7MXE to purchase a Weedeater to replace the one that has failed and is un-repairable. Bob proposed purchasing a top quality Stihl model FS 90 at around \$ 339.00. The discussion that followed addressed the need for one quite this expensive. In the end it was asked that the folks who do the lawn maintenance would check out the various models available and provide their recommendations at a future meeting.

**Club spending policy and procedure:** This topic relates to current plans to upgrade the HF Room, and how best to accommodate the interests and recommendations of the club members. This stemmed from a question raised by e-mail from K7MXE.

Al N7OMS pointed out that the current HF room upgrade proposal was to create four positions, and the infrastructure to support four positions, e.g. power, feed lines, switches, mikes, foot-switches, desks, chairs, lighting etc. and then to fill out those positions with gear we already have, or in the future agree to purchase. The first phase would be to agree on the design and infrastructure requirements to create four HF station positions.

Frank AC7JY suggested there are concerns out there that the club plans to purchase high end HF Gear. The response to this idea was generally, we aren't there yet, and we are exploring our options, to include approaching some of the major vendors for possible donations.

It is important to note that the club members have been asked to participate in the process, and there seems to be some misunderstanding that purchasing an array of new expensive equipment is a bit off the mark. The project is to upgrade the HF Room to four stations, then populate them with existing club gear, and at the same time develop future options and costs for upgrading equipment.

## 13 July 2011 MINUTES

The 13 July 2011 General Membership meeting was held at the Pierce County Library Administration Building. . Vice President Al Churchill AC7BU called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM.

Officers and board members present:

Vice President: Al Churchill AC7BU  
Secretary: Larry Watson -- KD4VOM  
Treasurer: Bob Purdom AD7LJ  
Board: Frank Palmer -- AC7JY  
Board: Nick Winter K7MO

*A sign in sheet with the names of members and guests is attached to the original copy of these minutes. There were 42 names on the attendance roster.*

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Was led by Vice President Al AC7BU

**INTRODUCTIONS:** Self introductions were completed and guests welcomed. .

## **ILLNESS OR SILENT KEY:**

Al AC7BU received a letter from Mick Pier KK7QS reporting that XYL Dawn had suffered a motorcycle accident on Monday and had suffered severe injuries. She is in a Vancouver Washington hospital intensive care and appears to have lost the use of her legs. Nick K7MO reports that Harry K7LAZ is recovering from an knee replacement

**Correspondence:** Larry KD4VOM reported membership renewals, Hamfest registrations, the usual bank statements and the new real property assessment values from Pierce County Assessor's office.

**Membership:** Karl K7KHJ reports the membership stands at 307

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**VE Report:** John AC7WW provided the following VE activity report.

The VE testing session on Tuesday, July 12 resulted in fourteen elements being graded with nine passed. One candidate passed element two and element three to become a General class Amateur. Five candidates upgraded to general and two upgraded to extra.

Two candidates did not earn an upgrade or an initial license at this session.

Thanks to the following VE's for their time and effort.

Harry, W7HSA  
Steve, AD7VL  
Dick, W1UG  
Jon, AD7AW  
Joe, K7ZG  
Don, K7QLC

Linda, AB7YL  
Al, AC7BU  
Jan, K7HTU  
Rich, KK7VH  
Stephen, AD7AB

The next monthly scheduled testing session will be Tuesday, August 9, 2011. There will be a testing session at the Radio Club of Tacoma Ham fest on Saturday August 13th.

**W7DK Hamfest:** Larry KD4VOM reported Hamfest plans are moving along well. Over 1,300 invitations were mailed on Monday. We still have no one interested in managing the snack bar operation and we expect to arrange a mobile vendor to provide this service.

**PROGRAM: Al N7OMS:** Presented a Field Day Summary report thanking all for a successful field day. Larry KD4VOM presented a video of this year's field day photos thanks to inputs from KD7DKY and John Clarke's XYL Connie.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

**W7DK Bunny Hunt:** Al N7OMS reminded all of this Saturday's Bunny hunt at the Steilacoom Park. Great place to enjoy, bring a lunch, and learn Amateur Radio Direction Finding Skills.

**W7DK at the Fair:** Leonard KA7NWF reminded all that Steve AD7AB has all the information and sign up forms on the W7DK.org website and is seeking volunteers...

**Stolen Ham Gear:** Larry KD4VOM reported on a message from Jim Pace announcing the break in and theft of a Snohomish ham's gear. It's a good idea to mark your gear with your call sign to assist in identification and possible recovery.

**RCT 95<sup>th</sup> Anniversary:** Larry KD4VOM noted that the club is looking to form a team to do the planning for this year's 95<sup>th</sup> Club anniversary. This is a great opportunity to for folks to help us put together a program to promote the club, honor its history and celebrate its accomplishments. If interested, contact Al N7OMS or Larry KD4VOM.

## **SHOW AND TELL:**

**Bill AC7QI:** Described the configuration and performance of the two antennas he used at Field Day.

## **TUNING AND TRAFFIC:**

**Mike W7XTZ:** Reported a visit with W7HTJ using a modified "tweaked" N4GG antenna multi-band 20/17/15 managed a contact with Croatia.

**DOOR PRIZE:** Tonight's prize, Safety Glasses was won by George KD7QBE.

**RAFFLE PRIZE:** Tonight's Raffle prize, a Ringo Ranger 2 meter antenna was won by Jim KE6WHN

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45.





## IMPORTANT NEW PRODUCT RELEASE!

### *Digital Wonder Do-IT-All S-Meter*

Brought to us from the good fellow hams in Idaho, read all about it here: <http://www.pocatelloarc.org/k0ip/pic/digitalSmeter.htm#price>



Using modern technology there's no longer any reason to give false and misleading signal reports, accuracy is **so** important during Net and DX operations, plus serious contesters can rest assured they are giving the correct report for every QSO! Its an absolute must for WAS nets, this S-meter insures a good contact every time!



Just position the *Digital Wonder Do-IT-All S-Meter* close to your rig, it's like magic. **What's the secret?** massive quantities of high speed silicon devices (1N4148's) that couple the electron's flow in your rig's AGC circuit to the S-Meter. Fool Proof, A must for serious operator, order April 1st and get the Dayton Discount!

Shown in action at the inventors QTH, above left, we see it in SSB DX mode!



Middle left, during an 80 meter contact on a worked all states NET.. I never heard the station calling, the Net Control yelled "over", I pressed the button, gave the report. The net control was **extremely pleased** that I had the correct report, he **excitedly exclaimed** "it's a good contact"! Is this great or what ?? It's so easy, no guess work - now I'm getting a QSL card Can it get any better? (see price list for the Bang Bang voice module)

Lower left, shown in CW mode... We did not leave you guys out...!

## RCT Field Day 2011... Al N7OMS

Many of us got our start in ham radio at some past field day. My first field day was with the Boeing Bears up in the Cascades somewhere. I still remember the smell of the canvas tents they used to house the stations. And how much fun it was to try SSB on 20 meters under the watchful eye of one of the "Old Timers". Well somehow I am now an "Old Timer" but Field Day still holds that magic for me. I suspect it has the same effect on many of us.

While the Radio Club of Tacoma has many events that take place all year, Field Day is one of those events that can really energize club members. This year Jay Leatham KD7DKY raised his hand to head up the 2011 Field Day. Due to the work of past FD chairs Bob Purdom and Nick Winter many of the logistical aspects of FD were in place. We just needed to get the who's, and what's sorted out.

I know many of the people from past FDs and I know Bruce WE7P. Bruce is a great friend and worker bee; just point him in the direction you need work done and off he goes. He and I were going to do 20 meters SSB. Gary WG7X and Pete KK7QW decided that they could do 10 meters without much trouble. Bill Wright was in place to do as he has done in the past: 80 meters with his kick butt wire antennas and midnight BBQ. Charles Smith KD7UAN was all ready with his UHF-VHF station that includes his trailer mounted tower. It was really something to behold. Hey Charles, did you notice the bit of lean in your tower? Good thing it was leaning that saved you getting a ticket from the FD critics. We'll talk about the FD critics later. Charles also offered equipment and power from his set up for a GOTA station. We just needed a couple of GOTA coaches.

About this time we got a big boost from Chuck AC7QN, Rich KR7W, Joe K7ZG, and Randy WB4SPB. Chuck and Rich decided to redo last year's ladder mounted 40 meters spider beam and work from Chuck's portable garage. They would also host a 20 CW station run by Joe and Randy and have a 20 meter inverted dipole also hung from the ladder.

During this time frame other things were happening. We got Bob AD7LJ to let us use his Icom station in a bag for 20 meters SSB. Ok... it is a BIG bag holding a 756 pro III and all the goodies to make a complete station. We had even conned Larry KD4VOM into bringing his trailer for our comfort at the 20 SSB station. Bruce is used to a certain level of comfort and style and this was going to work for him. Jan K7HTU had the kitchen duties well in hand. I was really looking forward to breakfast with the crews Sunday morning. Rumor was we were going to get custom omelets. Another rumor had Don KF7JEC bringing a pot of midnight soup for the late shift station workers. Taco soup that looked to have everything a tired ham could need.

Of course a few little things came up. Gary is not retired yet and work was getting in the way of Ham Radio. What's up with that Gary? This left Pete an orphan from the 10 meter group but Bruce and I snapped him up for the 20 SSB group. People were starting to look sideways at Bruce and I if we started moving in their direction at the club house or at the meetings. Bruce was making offers that could not be refused. Things were starting to come together and excitement was building. I had spoken to Bob several times and asked even more effort from him. Much credit should go to Bob cause he did all that was asked of him and more. This when he was going to be unable to attend the event! I made several phone calls to persons at Western State and let them know they could contact me about any issues. They all seemed to be happy to be hosting the Radio Club of Tacoma for the 5th year.

Nick K7MO loves to contest! He seems to enjoy all parts the planning, setup and making the Q's. I'm not sure how many years Nick has been a part of the clubs FD but he wanted to do something. Thus the 15 meter group came to be. Many of the same hams that have worked Salmon Run to great success with Nick in the past joined the 15 meter group.

Ok we had VHF-UHF, 80 meters, 40 meters, 20 CW, 20 SSB and 15 meters covered. We were now 5A. Steve AD7VL was ready to do something and would supply all equipment. Knowing Steve has worked with the Scouts for many Radio events I thought he would make a great GOTA coach so we got Steve to say yes and teamed him up with Maurice W7OT. We even had news that the FD critics would be making use of their ticket books at this year's event. There are good tickets and bad tickets. I got 2 and am thinking about holding my own appeals court. At this point I figured we had all we could handle and with just about 2 weeks until the Big Day we didn't want to add any more.

The FD this year was going to be a very different time for me. Running the GOTA station for a few years did not mean I knew what I was doing. So the approach was to let the Station heads do what they needed to do. This meant that they provided all that was needed or they would ask for something. Thank goodness I was asked for very little. They had their own rigs, antenna's, power generators, and the bits and pieces that make up a contest station. What Bruce, Jay and I tried to provide was names of people who could help with the setup, operating, cooking and break down. Even then many just came forward and filled the spots that needed to be filled.

I need to mention some club members that did step forward. John AC7WW and Connie Clarke for being there to meet and greet all who came to RCT 2011 FD. Connie for also taking many great pictures of the club in action. Jay for getting the ball rolling. It is not easy to raise ones hand for a leadership role. Diane W7SIM for helping to get the 15 and 20 meter beams into the air. Al Lentz for helping to get them down. Leonard KATNWF for his setup, break down, and late night guard work. Franky KF7FEF for kitchen duty and setup and break down. Michael W7XTZ, James KE6WHN and Jim KE7PVZ for being everywhere for everybody. Paul KE7WTK kitchen staff and for working with Scott Joplin of Forza Coffee Company on 2209 Pearl for their donations of that brew that means so much to so many. Dick KF7HQT setup and break down and I hope you got your packing blankets back. The Staff at Western State provided the location and their security was often seen rolling thru the FD site. In all of our dealings the staff was always very helpful.

I know that not all have their names here and that is my memories fault. Will probably get another FD ticket. But thank you all who helped. Setup and break down went well. At least it did in my opinion and I am the one writing this article so I get to decide history. We had a great 2011 FD and the Mighty DK was heard throughout the land. Radio Club of Tacoma Rocks!

Oh the results of the non contest contest? The required information has been sent to the ARRL and I'm sure the results will be in an upcoming QST. Be sure to check the web site and read your Bark for news of other exciting RCT events.

Thanks again Al N7OMS



## IT'S THAT TIME OF YEAR AGAIN!

This year the Club will be celebrating its 95th year as one of the premier Amateur Radio Clubs of the United States. We will also be Running with the Salmon and you will again have an opportunity to pledge based on how the club will do in this year's Washington State QSO party. For each of the last four years we have held a fund raiser called the "Radio Club of Tacoma Salmon Run Fund Raiser". So far the money we have raised has paid for a new roof, fixing the heating system, blinds for the windows, painting window trim, fixing up the front porch, wired Ethernet system to each room of the club house and an up to date alarm system. There are other things that have been done but much yet needs to be done.

The Washington State QSO Party is held the 3rd weekend in September. This year that's the 17th and 18th. If you are planning on a vacation in the State at that time be sure to bring a Radio and operate the Contest. It can be a lot of fun being in a wanted county during the QSO Party. We have had several members do just that and they always have good stories to tell.

The Club will also be sponsoring a Club Sweep Mug. If you manage to work all 39 Washington counties the club will be giving away a nicely done mug stating that you have reached that rare goal of "getting them all". If you need a rare county to visit at that time just contact myself N7OMS or Gary WGTX and we can point you in the right direction. Also, stayed tuned for further information at meetings, nets and the Bark.

Al N7OMS

Below, Al N7OMS and Bob AD7LJ at the second rig SR 2010.



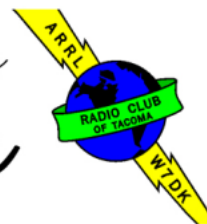
Below, Pat WT7N at the primary rig, SR 2010. Having Pat at the mic always lends class to RCT operations!







*The Radio Club of Tacoma's*  
**Logger's Bark**



*The Logger's Bark* is the **OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE RADIO CLUB OF TACOMA...** and is published by W7DK Press, PO Box 11188, Tacoma, WA 98411. The Radio Club of Tacoma is a non-profit corporation as defined by law, and all proceeds will be used exclusively for charitable and educational purposes. The Radio Club of Tacoma's Club House is located at 1249 Washington St, Tacoma, WA 98411, phone: 253-759-2040.

### Club Officers

**President:** Gary McAdams, 253-984-0868, g dot m dot mcadams at Comcast dot net  
**Vice Pres:** Al Curchill AC7BU al74vch at gmail dot com  
**Secretary:** Larry Watson KD4VOM royretreat at mailcan dot com  
**Treasurer:** Bob Purdom lcdrbob at hotmail dot com

### 5 Board Members (listed in no particular order)

Al Lentz, W7AML alentz at centurytel dot net  
 Crystal Quamme K7XK crystalquamme at gmail dot com  
 Silas Nelson KA7AQT sinelsen at amum dot ups dot edu  
 Nick Winter K7MO wnjr at blarg dot net  
 Frank Palmer AC7JY ac7jy at msn dot com

### Logger's Bark Staff

**Editor in Chief:** "Stop the Presses!!" Gary McAdams, WG7X, thebark@comcast.net  
**Printer/Publisher:** "Start the Presses" John Clarke, AC7WW, 253-475-5854  
**Reporters:** The members of the Radio Club of Tacoma...  
**Send articles to:** thebark@comcast.net or The Bark, 11405 88th Ct SW, Lakewood, WA 98498

**The Fine Print:** The Logger's Bark is published once a month for the membership of The Radio Club of Tacoma or interested ham radio enthusiasts. The Bark is delivered by PDF file on the club's website: [www.w7dk.org](http://www.w7dk.org). If a condensed paper copy is needed... then let the Printer/Publisher listed above know.

**ADVERTISE in the BARK:** \$60.00 full page, \$30.00 half page, \$15.00 quarter page, \$5.00 business card size. These charges offset the publishing and USPS mailing costs.

**Want / For Sale ads** are free to members. The Logger's Bark does not verify or guarantee statements in the Want For Sale listings. Permission is granted to use any or all portions of articles published in The Loggers Bark if Credit line is included in the article.

**Membership Info:** FULL (licensed) and ASSOCIATE (non licensed) is \$30 per calendar year. \$25 for Licensed Seniors (65 and over). Licensed family members at same address pay \$15 each for the first two and are free for the third, fourth, and so on. Fulltime students, licensed or non licensed, up to age 25 are \$15 per year. Note: fees are applicable for the calendar year: Jan to Dec. Lifetime membership is 20 times the yearly fee you are eligible for.. Lifetime memberships are calculated based on the FULL and ASSOCIATE rates.

## Radio Club Repeaters

**Central Tacoma:** 147.280 + PL=103.5    **Central Tacoma Packet:** 144.970

**Crawford Mountain (SE Thurston County):** 147.380 + PL=103.5

**Central Tacoma:** 440.625 + PL=103.5

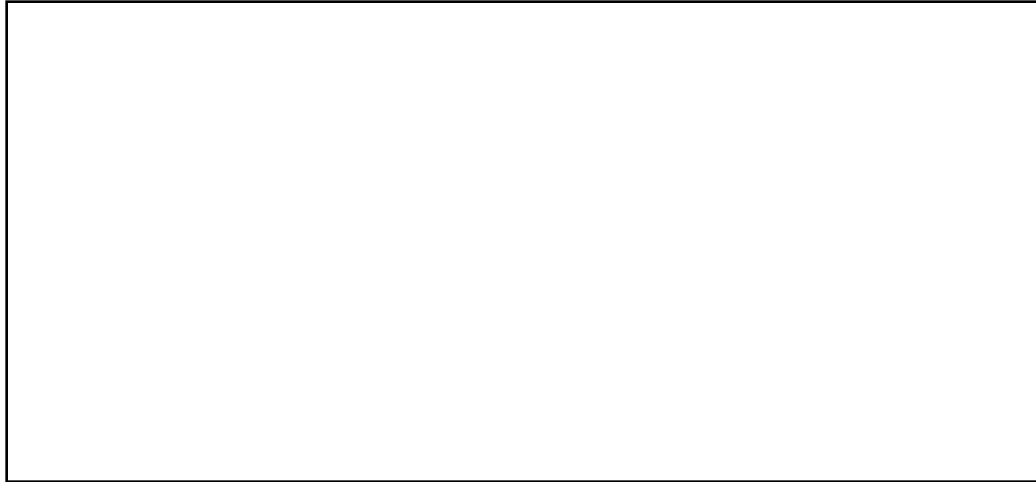
***The Loggers Bark***

**Radio Club of Tacoma, INC.**

**PO Box 11188**

**Tacoma, WA 98411**

**To RCT Member:**



# AUGUST 2011 EVENTS

**CLUB MEETINGS:** Wednesdays August 10th and 24th at the Library Administration Building 112th and Waller Road. The club meets at 7:30 PM. Everyone is invited to attend.

**Board Meeting:** Wednesday August 1st 7:00 PM at the RCT clubhouse. All members are welcome to attend .

**Bark Deadline:** Last week-end of each month. Please submit articles by that time!

**Support our club:** Attend meetings, volunteer, Elmer!

**Check into the weekly two meter net:** Tuesdays at 7:30 PM on the club repeater on 147.280 MHz

**Check into the weekly 10 meter net:** Sundays at 8:00 PM on 28.375 MHz .